

The Legislative Branch: "I'm Just a Bill, Sittin' Here on Capitol Hill..."

Constitution, Preamble and Article I

Supplement: Debate Over Representation in Congress

Supplement: CONSTITUTION CHECKS & BALANCES CHART

Supplement: The Constitution- Some Facts at a Glance

How does the structure of the legislative branch manifest a fear of democracy?

Identifications:

Article I, legislative branch, Congress, House of Representatives, Senate, Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, necessary and proper clause (elastic clause), enumerated powers, implied powers, impeachment (and removal from office), interstate commerce clause, bill, law, veto, pocket veto, ex post facto law, bill of attainder, writ of habeas corpus, reserved (residual) powers, concurrent powers, delegated powers, limited government

Homework Questions:

1. What are the members of the House of Representatives? For members of the Senate? How long are the terms for Representatives? Senators? How are members of the House chosen? How are Senators chosen (according to the Constitution)?
2. What powers does the Constitution grant to Congress (in Article I, Section 8)? What powers does the Constitution deny to Congress?
3. What powers does the Constitution grant the states? What powers does it deny the states?
4. How does a bill (a proposed law) become a law?
5. How is the Constitution constructed to address de Tocqueville's fear of the "tyranny of the majority"?

## The Executive Branch

### Constitution, Article II

Supplement: Debate Over the Election of the Executive

Supplement: The Constitution- Some Facts at a Glance

What are the powers of the President according to the Constitution? How is the president chosen according to the Constitution? Why did the framers construct such a system for electing the president?

Identifications:

Article II, executive branch, commander-in-chief, electoral college, elector, Vice President

Homework Questions:

1. According to the Constitution how is the President chosen? How is the Vice President chosen?
2. What are the qualifications to be president? How long is the president's term?
3. What powers does the Constitution grant to the President? What powers does it grant to the Vice President?

## The Judicial Branch and Articles IV through VII of the Constitution

### Constitution, Articles III-VII

What is the role of the Supreme Court according to the Constitution? What does the Supremacy Clause indicate about the relationship between the federal government and the states under the Constitution?

Identifications:

Article III, Supreme Court, Chief Justice, Associate Justices, original jurisdiction, appellate jurisdiction, independent judiciary, Articles IV-VII, guarantee clause, supremacy clause,

constitutional amendment, amendment process, ratification process, judicial review, Marbury v. Madison (1803)

#### Homework Questions:

1. What are the qualifications for Supreme Court justices? How long are their terms? How are they chosen?
2. According to the Constitution, what is the function of the Supreme Court? What types of cases are within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court (what types of cases are they allowed to hear)?
3. What is the process of amending the Constitution? How is an amendment different from a law?
4. What impact does Article VI have on the balance of power between the federal government and the states? How is this different from the Articles of Confederation?